areas and in the urban areas the percentage was 3.53 for the males and 1.02 for the women. So, I would like to inform the Member that the National Sample Survey Organisation is an organisation of international repute and standard and their estimates may be accepted as reliable. The survey is held every 5 year and there is no other better instrument giving figure of employment and unemployment. A fresh survey has also been started from 1st July, 1987, which will be completed in the month of June, 1988. I would also like to inform the hon. Member that all the job seekers on the live registers of the employment exchanges are not necessarily unemployed. This is something I -would like to bring home... *(Interruptions)* Let me finish.

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: 'I challenge his figure. He is misleading the House. How can he say like that? *(Interruptions).*

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER; I had agreed with the hon. Member... *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Please sit down. You have got other weapons to elicit information. Please sit down. *(Interruptions)* . Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Buffer Stock Position of Wheat and Rice

*245 SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHA-NA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the buffer stock position of wheat and rice at the end of 1987;

(b) whether the buffer stocks are it the base level;

(c) the quantum of wheat and rice proposed to be procured during tne Rabi season; and

(d) whether Government propose to maximise the procurement during the Rabi season to maintain the base ievel °f buffer stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The total stock of foodgrains with the public agencies as on 1st January, 1988 was estimated at 14.14 million tonnes, of which wheat was 7.57 million tonnes and rice 6.48 million tonnes. Th:.s was against the total requirement of 20.1 million tonnes on that date under the buffer stocking policy.

(c) No procurement targets are fix ed as wheat and paddy are procured to extend price support to farmers^ while rice is procured under levy.

(d) Yes, Sir; the procuring agen cies have been advised to maximise procurement.

Three Pronged Strategy for Agriculture

*246. SHRI DINKARAO GOVIND-RAO PATH,; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. M. S. Swaminathan had recently suggested in his lecture at the University of Madras on the 3rd January, 1988, a three-pronged strategy to lift Indian agri culture out of rut *viz.,* (I) application of knowledge of cost-f/ffective techno logies: (ii) actual farmer-scient'st co operation and (iii) massive applica tion of modern technological know ledge; and

(b) if so, what is Government's re action thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.